

REMARKS

In an office action responsive to a Request for Continued Examination and accompanying Amendment, the Examiner rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kerns et al (US 5,367,332); and rejected claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kerns* in view of Scheurich (US 6,665,453). Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 16-24 34-37 and 40-53 were allowed. Claim 28 was object to as dependent on a rejected base claim, but otherwise indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant has amended claim 27 to include all the limitations of dependent claim 28. Claim 28 has accordingly been cancelled as superfluous. As amended, claim 27 is of identical scope to previous claim 28 (although in independent form). Since the Examiner indicated contained that claim 28 contained allowable subject matter, amended claim 27 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims. In addition, the Examiner is encouraged to contact applicant's attorney by telephone if there are outstanding issues left to be resolved to place this case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAIR WYMAN



By: _____

Roy W. Truelson

Registration No. 34,265

Telephone: (507) 202-8725

Docket No.: ROC920010233US1

Serial No.: 10/021,819